

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Ordnance Equipment

REPORT

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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25X1

Pistols and Revolvers

1. The German models o8 and 38, 9-mm., were the standard hand weapons in Czech military units. Most of these weapons were confiscated from the Germans at the end of World War II. The Czech small-arms industry overhauled all of them that lacked parts and needed repair. The condition of these weapons varied from poor to good. Many of them were in need of repair, and spare parts could not be had.
2. The model 33 Soviet Tokarev 7.62-mm. pistols were seen in increasing numbers. [redacted] officers of the Air Force and Army, as well as political officers, carrying this weapon. [redacted] one of these pistols, [redacted] was of Soviet manufacture, as all markings on it were in Russian. The quality of finish was very poor in comparison with Czech workmanship.
3. Another pistol, the 7.65-mm. "Zbrojovka", was carried by some military officers and political police (sic). It was purchased by the individual and was not a regular issue item.

25X1

Rifles and Carbines

4. German model 98k and Czech model 24 7.92-mm. Mauser rifles were used by both Army and Air Force units. The condition of the rifles at the Air Force Academy in Dolny Kubin /4912N-1918E/ [redacted] varied from very good to poor. Each class used the same rifles for training and range firing. Many model 24s appeared to be of post-war manufacture, which was evidenced by their new condi-

25X1

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25 YEAR
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670

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1

-2-

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tion. This model varied in some respects, e.g.: slings were located on either the bottom or side; the firing-pin disassembling device located on the side of the stock was omitted on some guns, and a hole in the side of the butt plate served this purpose. The maximum range on sights also varied; 1,800 m. was found to be the highest graduation on some rifles, while others had 2,000 or 2,400 m.

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25X1

6.

7. Prior to firing the 7.92-mm. rifles during marksmanship training, Czech air cadets first had to fire a small-bore training rifle at 25-m. and 50-m. ranges. This small-bore rifle was known to the Czechs as the "Flobert". Its caliber was 6-mm. and it fired regular and long-rifle ammunition.

Submachine Guns

8. [redacted] the only SMGs being used by the Czech Armed Forces were the 9-mm. models 23 and 25. The Air Force Academy had the model 23, which was used for instruction purposes and guard duty. To provide for low-cost training and to simulate firing during field exercises and maneuvers, special training barrels and ammunition were issued for use with Czech 9-mm. SMGs. The barrel had a 6-mm. smooth bore, and was 2 mm. longer than the regular 9-mm. barrel. The special training ammunition was the same as the standard 9-mm. ball cartridge, but had a navy-blue colored wooden bullet. For use, the regular 9-mm. barrel was removed and replaced with the training barrel. The standard magazines were loaded with the special 9-mm. training ammunition and placed in the gun for firing. Upon firing, the wooden bullet was reduced to 6 mm. in diameter, and thereby caused sufficient resistance to provide the necessary gas pressure for the operation of the mechanism. A distance of five meters was considered safe when firing in the direction of troops. [redacted] sufficient training barrels were available to equip all SMGs at the Air Force Academy.

25X1

25X1

Light Machine Guns

9. The Czech 7.92-mm. model 26 LMG was used by both the Air Force and Army. In June 1952, all model 26 LMGs were taken from the Air Force Academy to have [redacted] modification made, with the exception of one model 26, which was to remain for instructional use. [redacted] all model 26s were to be returned as soon as the modification was completed. As a replacement, German World War II 7.92-mm. model 42 LMGs were issued to the Academy. These German LMGs were in very poor condition; some were held together with wire and were unsafe for firing.

25X1

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25X1

Heavy Machine Guns

10. [redacted] of two HMG models: the Czech 7.92-mm. model 37 and the Soviet 7.62-mm. model 1910 Maxim w/wheeled mount. [redacted]

25X1

SECRET

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

-3-

25X1

25X1

Weapon Records

11. A small record book was received with every new Czech small arm and was kept by the supply personnel of each organization. This book accompanied the weapon upon leaving the factory and contained the following information: serial number of weapon; factory code number; one target showing results of five test rounds fired at the factory; inspector's initials; and space for ordnance inspection and repair data.

Artillery

12. The subject of artillery, as taught to students at the Air Force Academy, was as follows: theory, principles of operation, ballistics, and tactical employment. No specific types of artillery pieces were covered.

Antiaircraft

13. [redacted] Soviet model 39, 37-mm. AA guns, [redacted] use by Czech troops. [redacted] in a field exercise or maneuver during the Fall of 1951, [redacted] 25X1
14. During the Summer of 1952, [redacted] two German, model 38, 20-mm. (Flakvierling) four-barreled AA guns. They were in prepared positions on non-mobile mounts of bunker or revetment type. [redacted] 25X1

Long-Range Guns

15. During September 1951, [redacted] four long-range artillery tubes being transported on four-wheeled limbers. [redacted] were towed by Tatra trucks, model 111, along the road between the towns of Mnichovo Hradiste and Kurivody /5035N-1449E/. [redacted] 25X1

Recoilless

16. [redacted] additional information on the Panceroška. [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] this weapon was the latest antitank weapon of the Czech Army and was still classified secret. The Panceroška launcher had a smooth-bore open-ended steel tube which measured 85 to 100 cm. long and 40 mm. in diameter /See Annex A7/. A pistol-type grip and trigger assembly was located under the launcher just to the rear of center. Electrical ignition was by means of a battery housed in the pistol grip. The center section of the launcher was covered with some sort of insulating material, light brown in color. The rear sight was of folding-leaf type with graduations from 50 to 250 m. and was located off center on the left side of the launcher. The front sight had a cover and was offset to the left the same amount as the rear sight. The launcher was not equipped with a bipod or carrying sling.

SECRET

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

-4-

25X1

17. As for ammunition, [redacted] six types were to be manufactured for the Pancarovka, four [redacted] as HE, HEAT, WP, and SMOKE. One round was [redacted] ^{See Annex A} to be 15 cm. at the enlarged, forward end, and 4 cm. at the rear; the over-all length was 30 cm. or more; the color of the round was gray-blue with a small red band painted around the enlarged portion. [redacted] 30 cm. of armor could be penetrated with the Pancarovka and that in some cases even deeper penetrations have been made. 25X1

Aircraft Rockets

18. [redacted] the Czech IL-10 airplanes were armed with four rockets. [redacted] 25X1

Wheel and Track Vehicles

19. The following is a list of vehicles currently being used by the Czech Military:

a. Personnel Carriers

- (1) [redacted] Jeep, 1/4 tn. 4 x 4. This vehicle, though seen in limited numbers, continued to be used by some Czech Army units. 25X1
- (2) The Skoda and Tatra firms were both manufacturing jeep-type vehicles. This vehicle resembled the Volkswagen used by the Germans during World War II. The Skoda was powered by a four-cylinder, liquid-cooled engine, while the Tatra was powered by a four-cylinder air-cooled engine with exposed cylinder.
- (3) Skoda Tudor-Cabriolet, model 1102, 4 x 2, four-cylinder, liquid-cooled engine. This vehicle was used by some Army headquarters as a staff car.
- (4) Tatra, model 57B, four-cylinder, air-cooled engine. Like the Skoda, this vehicle served for staff-officer transportation.

b. Trucks

- (1) Praga, model RN, 2 1/2-ton, 4 x 2. This truck appeared to be standard in most Czech Army units.
- (2) Praga, model RND, 3 1/2-ton. 4 x 2 (dw), six-cylinder diesel, liquid-cooled.
- (3) Praga, models RND, 5-ton 4 x 2 (dw) and 10-ton 6 x 4 (dw).
- (4) Skoda, model 706, 6 x 4 (dw), six-cylinder diesel, liquid-cooled.
- (5) Skoda, model 256, three-ton, 4 x 2 (dw). This model was no longer being manufactured. Many were still being used by the military, however.
- (6) Tatra, model 114, three-ton, 4 x 2 (dw). four-cylinder diesel engine, air-cooled.
- (7) Tatra, model 111, 10-ton, 6 x 6 (dw), 12-cylinder engine, air-cooled. The engine developed 245 hp. This truck was used by Czech heavy artillery and engineer units.

SECRET

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

-5-

25X1

- (8) Aero, [redacted] 1½-ton, 4 x 2. The chassis was used for two models: ambulance and light pick-up truck. Engines for these vehicles were furnished by Skoda. The Aero Company was manufacturing only for the military. 25X1
- (9) GAZ-51 and ZIS-5; at the close of World War II, the USSR furnished Czechoslovakia with both of these models. [redacted] 25X1
- (10) GMC and Studebaker, 2½-ton, 6 x 6. Czechoslovakia received these vehicles after the close of World War II through the UNRRA aid program. They were highly regarded by the Czechs, and every effort has been made to keep them in service. Spare parts were manufactured for them by the Czech industry to the extent of replacing the engine with the Tatra model 114 diesel. This engine change was for operational economy. The chassis of these trucks were said to stand up better under rough military use than the standard Praga military trucks.
- (11) Ford, Canadian, and Fordson models, two-ton, 4 x 4. Like the GMC and Studebaker these two models were also received through UNRRA aid. The majority of these were deadlined for lack of spare parts. Valves and ignition seemed to cause the most trouble. Replacement parts were being made by Czech industry for use on these trucks.

Amphibious Vehicles

20. Model KDF (World War II German Amphibious Volkswagen, Kfz.2s), confiscated from the Germans at the end of the war. Although not seen in great numbers, their appearance from time to time indicated that they were still being used by the Czech military.

Tractors

21. Skoda, model 30, two-cylinder, two-cycle diesel, rated at 30 hp., with pneumatic tires. The Czech Air Force used this tractor for moving aircraft at airfields, and Army engineers used it for moving trailers and equipment.
22. Model 80, Stalinets (Russian), diesel engine, caterpillar -type. [redacted] tractor being used by Czech engineers with a dozer blade for grading and construction work. 25X1

Motorcycles

23. Jawa, model 250 ccm., were used for messenger service with infantry units or reconnaissance with armored units. [redacted] Jawa, model 500 ccm., used by the Czech SNB and civilian police. 25X1

Self-Propelled Guns

24. [redacted] the SU 76 (76-mm. gun). This SP was called the Skoda by Czech soldiers and was thought to be manufactured by Skoda of Pilsen. [redacted] 25X1

25X1

Tanks

25. The model T 34/85 (Russian) tank, was [redacted] rumored among the Czech soldiers that the T 34/85 was being manufactured in Czechoslovakia. [redacted] 25X1

25X1

SECRET

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

-6-

25X1

Grenades

26. Grenade, hand, model F1 (Russian), defensive, fragmentation type.

25X1

[redacted] this was the only type of grenade being used by the Czech military.

Pyrotechnics

27. Signal pistols, tip-up type, 27 mm., were used by Air Force and Army units alike. The one [redacted] was of German manufacture and World War II vintage. All types of signal shells were available for these pistols: single ball, cluster, and parachute types, in white, red, amber, and green colors.

25X1

Binoculars

28. All binoculars [redacted] were of German manufacture. These were made by Zeiss of Jena or Leitz of Wetzlar, and markings on them indicated they were for German Army use.

25X1

Radar

29. [redacted] Czech antiaircraft artillery had a device which controlled their guns automatically. This device could automatically elevate, depress, and traverse the guns. Also, [redacted] this device could automatically track any aircraft that flew in their vicinity.

25X1

25X1

30. The Pal Company in Czechoslovakia manufactured ignition coils, distributors, condensers, generators, starter motors, and spark plugs for the Czech Air Force, Army, export, and domestic use. The quality of products was below standard. [redacted] PAL products which failed in use did so, not from poor workmanship, but rather from poor metals and other materials used.

25X1

Batteries

31. Both wet-and dry-cell batteries were manufactured in Czechoslovakia. Elco and Varta were the two main companies. The quality was far below that of pre-war years because of scarcity of materials.

Tires

32. [redacted] two firms [redacted] were manufacturing tires in Czechoslovakia, Barum and Matador. The tires were mostly of synthetic rubber and poor in quality, causing many complaints from civilian users. The tires that were made for export and military use, on the other hand, appeared to be of better quality.

25X1

Engine Oils

33. There were only three grades of engine oil being used in Czechoslovakia. Grade BB (heavy), was used for summer operation; Grade AF (medium), for normal operations; Grade Z (light), for winter and cold-weather operations. These oils were all mineral base.

SECRET

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

-7-

Gear Oil

25X1

34. Grade C (very heavy) [redacted] was used for transmissions and differentials.

25X1

35. The Shell Oil Corporation was formerly the largest supplier of motor oils and fuel in Czechoslovakia. Since 1949, a new organization by the name of Benzinol has taken over all fuel and oil supplies in Czechoslovakia, including all Shell Oil stations and holdings, and has been the only supplier of POL products. This company supplied both military and civilian needs. The main oil refinery of Benzinol was at Pardubice.

Cooling Systems

36. Military vehicles of the Czech Air Force or Army did not use anti-freeze or special solutions to prevent freezing during winter or cold operations. Vehicle engine cooling systems were drained at the end of each day's operation or whenever the vehicle's engine was to be shut down longer than one hour.

Engines

37. During extreme cold, instructions were that all engine and gear oils should be drained slightly and diesel fuel added so as to reduce viscosity and prevent damage to engines or power trains.

Gas Generators

38. Since 1951 many civilian passenger cars as well as trucks have been employing gas generating units for their operation. These units were the charcoal- and wood-burning type. Their use was thought to be caused by the high cost of gasoline.

Annex : A

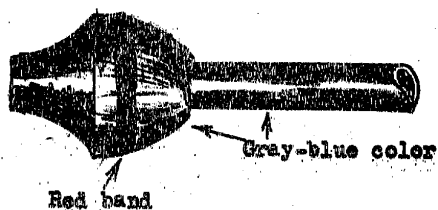
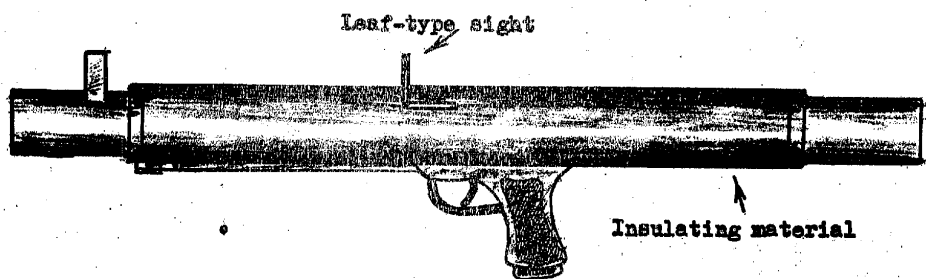
Czech "Pancerovka" Launcher and Projectile

SECRET

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Annex A

Czech "Pancerovka" Launcher and Projectile



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